

Lesson Five: Pedestrian Safety

Objective: At the end of this lesson, children will be able to discuss the proper ways to cross a street and identify the importance of making themselves visible to motorists.



Materials: Reflective tape, miscellaneous items in the classroom.

Directions:

1. Set up dark room with reflective tape on a few objects in the classroom.
2. Take children to the room and have them try to see the items marked with tape.
3. Discuss how much more visible the items are with reflective tape on them.
4. Ask students where they could wear tape to be more visible to drivers at night. (possible answers: on hats, clothes, shoes, backpacks, helmets)
5. Talk to the children about safe habits for walking. Talk about variety of situations that can occur, what should they do?
 - ball rolls out into the road
 - need to cross the street to visit a friend
 - while walking to school, a car is backing out of a driveway
 - the crossing guard says to stop
6. Reinforce safety habits:
 - Hold an adult's hand
 - Never cross the street alone.
 - Look left, right and left again before crossing if no cars are coming.
 - Watch for cars moving out of their spaces or backing out of a driveway.
 - Cross the street only at an intersection or marked crosswalks. Don't run into the street between parked cars.
 - Always walk on sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk off the roadway. Walk facing traffic so drivers can see you.
7. To reinforce the concept of drivers not being able to always see a child, play "Peek-a-boo". Remind the children of the game they might play with their younger brothers or sisters or that they may have played when they were younger. Cover your eyes with your hand. Ask the class if they can see you? "Yes". Can you see them? "No". Then reverse. Have the children all cover their eyes. Can they see you? "No." Can you see them? "Yes". Explain this is often true for drivers of cars and trucks. Even if you can see them, they may not be able to see you. Especially in the dark.